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INT CL⁶ E05B 73/00 75/00, F41B 13/04 15/02, F41C
33/02

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(54) A secure holder for handcuffs or a baton

(57) A holder 10 comprises a loop element 30, eg of leather, the open ends of which are joined together by a press-stud fastener 32, 33 so as to hold a set of handcuffs 19 or a baton (50, fig 8). An outer end part 34 of the loop element 30 is reinforced by plate member 60, eg of metal, attached by a rivet 36 that also fixes one end of a securing strip 37 to the loop element 30, the other end of the securing strip 37 may be attached to the loop element 30 by press-stud fastener 38, 39. The securing strip 37 prevents accidental release of the holder while rapid intentional opening is provided by contact with, for example, the heel of the thumb on end part 34. Rivet 20 and washer 59 allow rotation of the holder 10 relative to part 11 which is attached via slots 16, 17 to a belt 18. The holder 10 may be fixed in a plurality of angular positions (see figs 3 to 5).

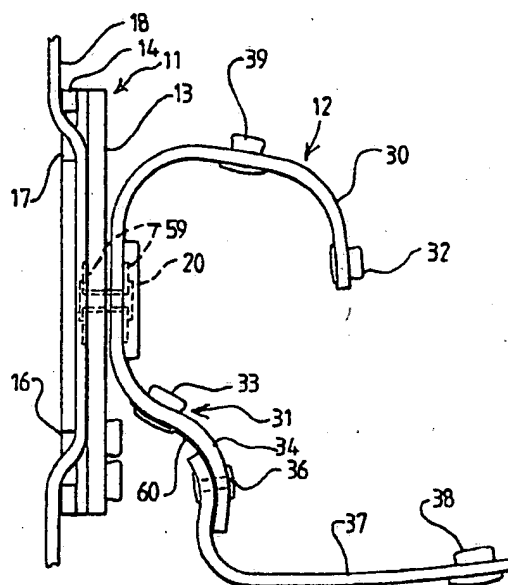


FIG 2

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FIG 1

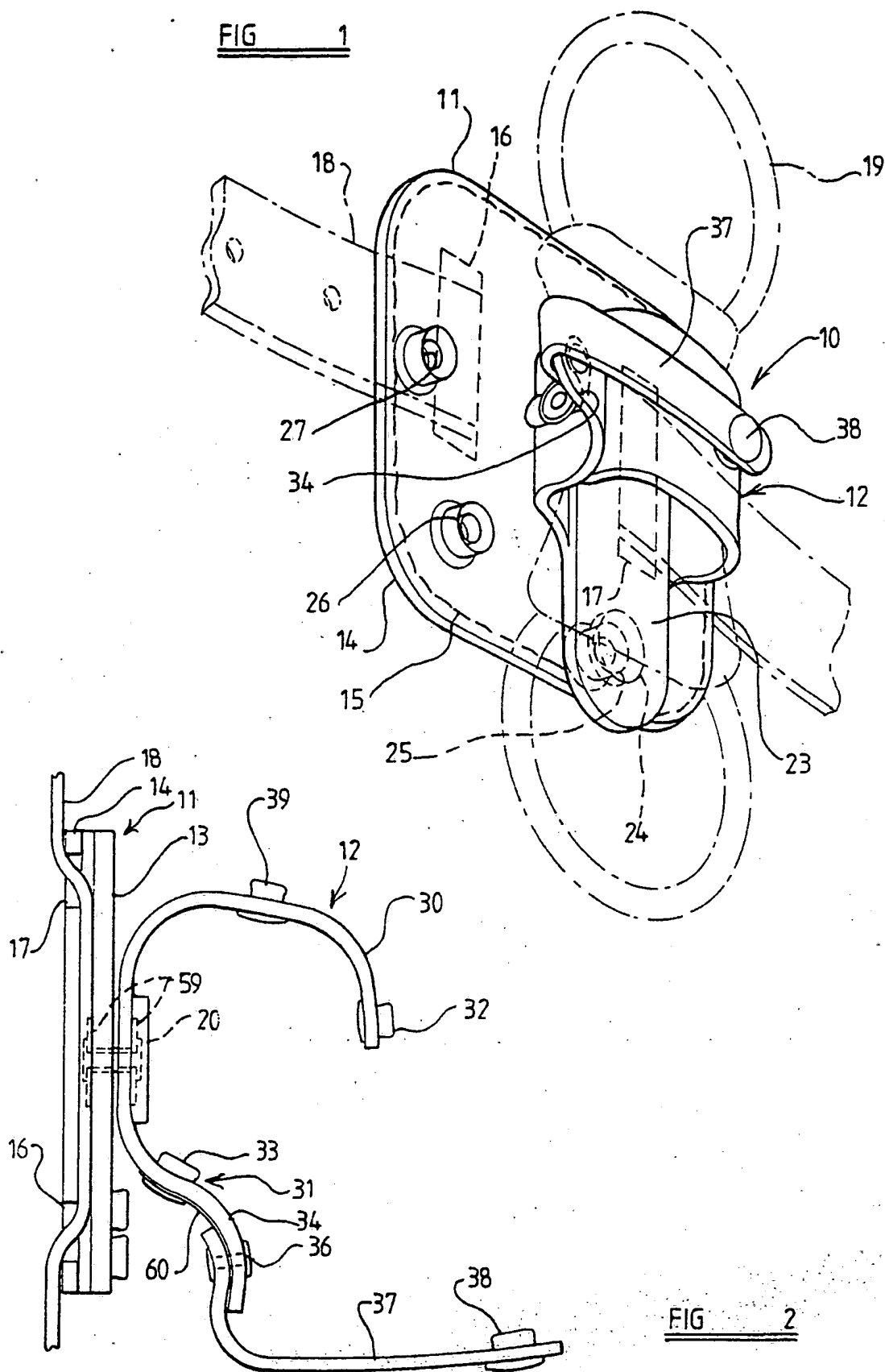
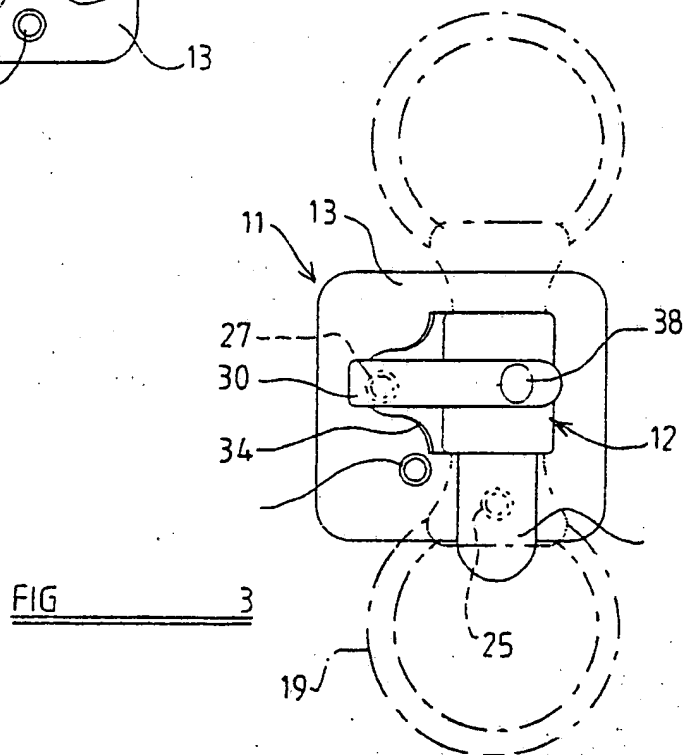
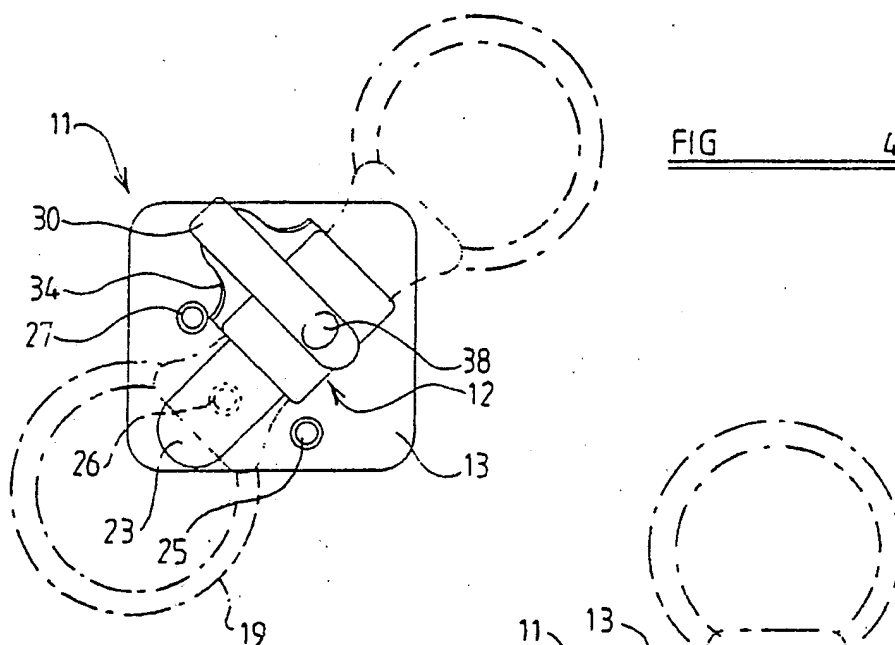
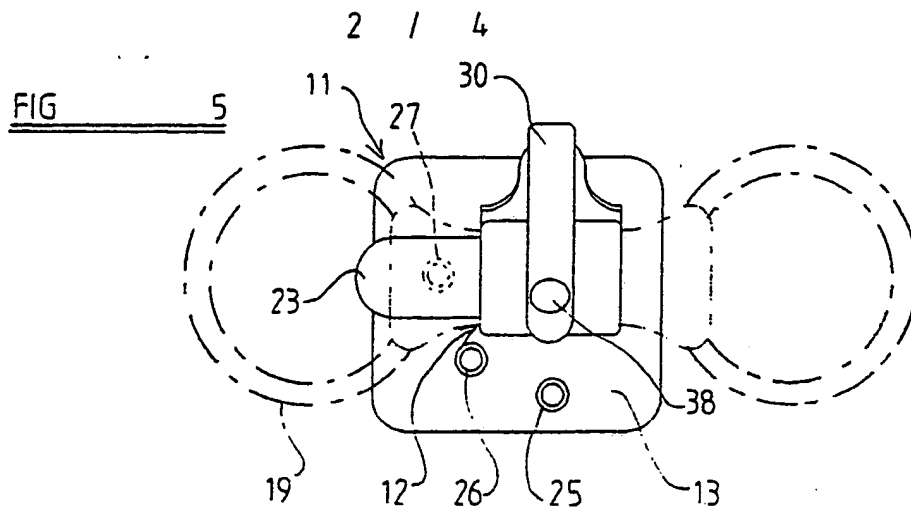


FIG 2



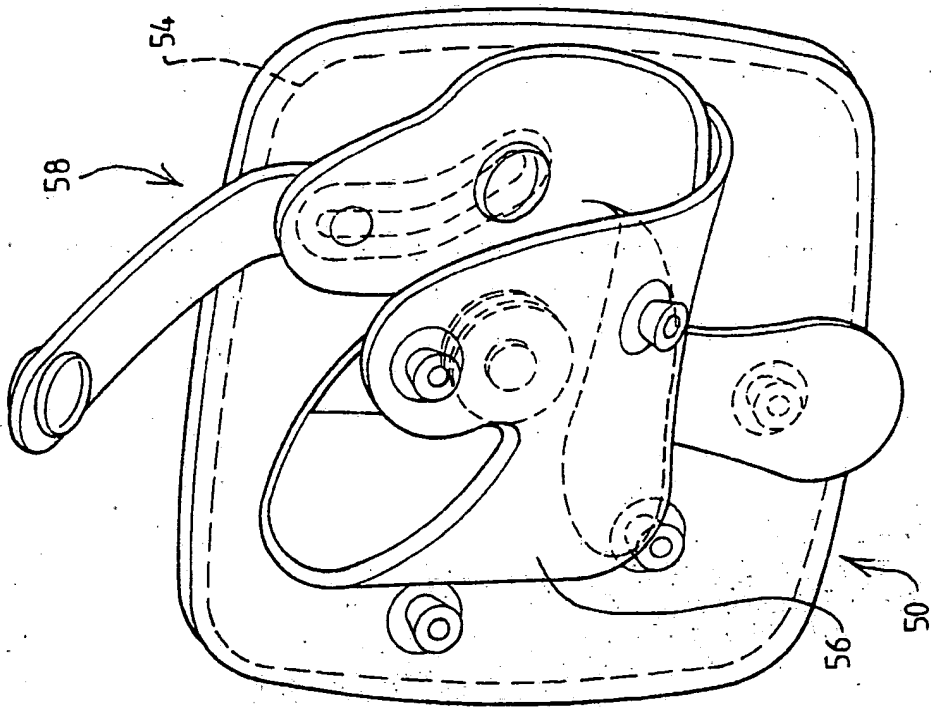


FIG 7

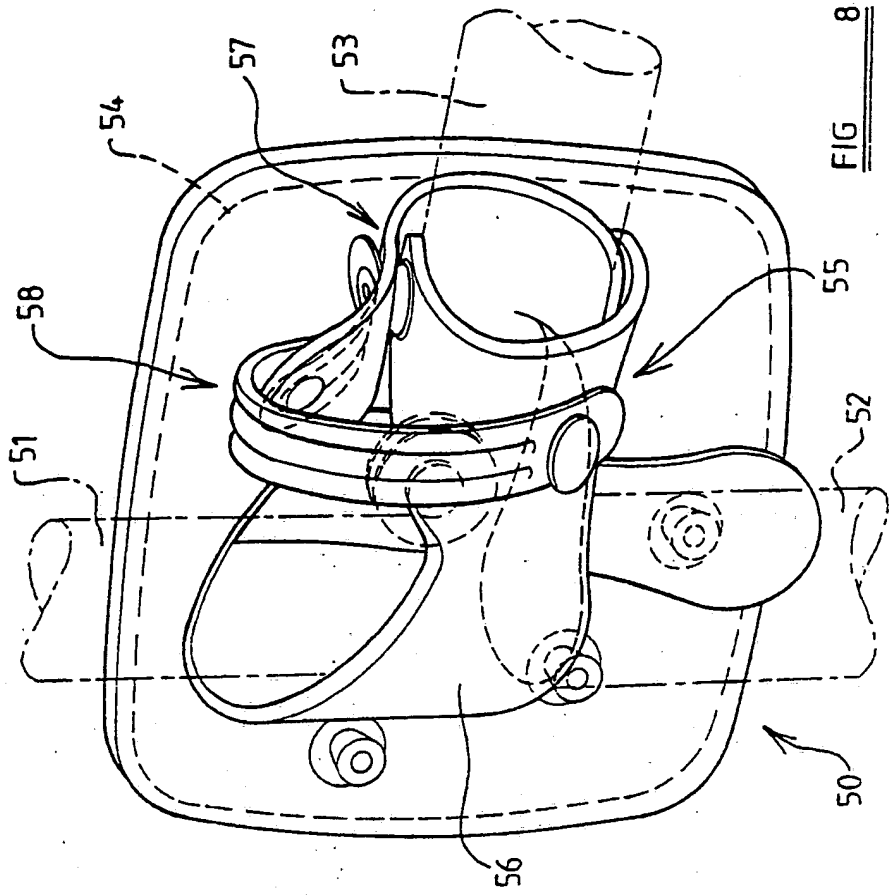


FIG 8

PATENTS ACT 1977

Title: "An Improved Holding Means"

Description of Invention

The present invention relates to holding means, primarily but not exclusively holding means for holding an article relative to a person and may include attachment means whereby it may be attached to a belt or some other article of clothing worn by the person.

The holding means is primarily but not exclusively for holding a pair of handcuffs or a baton or some other article.

There are two types of handcuffs in fairly common use - one in which a pair of bracelets are attached by a chain or other flexible member and another type in which the bracelets are attached by a solid member and hence present an elongate rigid structure. A baton also presents an elongate rigid structure hence both present problems in that if they are accidentally knocked at one end, the leverage provided by the length of the article can force fastening means provided on any holding means to be opened unintentionally.

If the fastening means were made more secure, it may be that such an article cannot be readily released when required.

It is an object of the present invention to provide new or improved holding means which overcomes or minimises the problems mentioned above.

According to the present invention, we provide holding means adapted for holding an article, said holding means comprising a first part having attachment means for attachment to a person or to an article of personal attire worn by the person and a second part adapted for holding an article, said second part comprising an open loop comprising first and second loop elements each of which is provided with one part of a two-part releasable fastening engageable to close said loop, one of said loop elements having secured thereto a securing member, said securing member being provided with one part of a second two-part releasable fastening, the other part of which is provided on the other of said loop elements.

Preferably, one of said loop elements is provided with an outer end part which extends in a direction away from said other loop element when the first releasable fastening means is in its secured position.

Preferably, said two part releasable fastening comprises a "press-stud" type fastening.

Preferably, the attachment means provided on the first part comprises a loop through which a belt worn by the user may extend. Alternatively, said first part may be provided with a belt whereby it may be attached directly to the person rather than to an article of personal attire.

Where the holding means is adapted to hold a side handled baton, said second part may comprise a further loop through which the elongate part of the baton extends and said releasable first and second loop element may close around the side handle of the baton.

In the case where the holding means is specifically designed to hold a pair of rigid handcuffs, said second part may include a pocket element into which at least a part of said handcuffs is adapted to extend when held by said holding means.

Preferably, said first part and said second part are connected by a connecting member enabling relative movement between said first and second parts.

Means may be provided to secure said first part and said second part in fixed relation in a plurality of different relative positions.

Preferably, said relative movement is rotational movement.

Conveniently, the means for securing one part relative to the other comprises releasable fastening means, one provided on the second part and at least two complimentary parts provided on the first part to provide a plurality of different fixed positions of said first part and said second part.

The present invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of one embodiment of the invention;

FIGURE 2 is a sectional view through the holding means shown in an "open" position;

FIGURE 3 illustrates the embodiment shown in Figure 2 in one fixed position;

FIGURE 4 illustrates the embodiment shown in Figures 1 and 2 in different fixed positions;

FIGURE 5 illustrates the embodiment shown in Figures 1 and 2 in a third fixed position.

FIGURE 6 illustrates a second embodiment of holding means,

FIGURE 7 is a perspective view of a third embodiment of the invention adapted to hold a side handled baton.

FIGURE 8 illustrates the embodiment shown in Figure 7, with the holding means shown in a "closed" position.

Referring first to Figures 1 and 2. The holding means generally indicated at 10 comprises a first part 11 and a second part 12. The first part 11 comprises two pieces of material, for example leather, 13 and 14 which are joined together, for example by stitching shown at 15.

The part 14 is provided with elongate cut-outs 16 and 17 such that a belt shown at 18 may be passed through the cut-outs 16 and 17 so as to secure the first part to the belt 18.

The first part 11 is secured to the second part 12 by means of a rivet-like member 20 and corresponding washer-like members 59 which hold the first part 11 to the second part 12 in a manner that permits relative rotational movement of the first part 11 and the second part 12 about the axis of the rivet-like member 20.

In order to prevent undesired relative movement between the first part and the second part so that the orientation of the second part relative to the first part can be fixed in one of a plurality of different positions, the second part is provided with securing means in the form of a tab 23 which is provided with one part 24 of a press-stud type two-part releasable fastening. The other part 25 is secured to the member 13 of the first part and other second parts of the two-part

fixing are shown secured at 26 and 27 which gives three alternative fixed positions of the first and second parts, thus the article 19 can be held in a substantially vertical position as shown in Figure 1 or, if the releasable fastening 24 was secured to the other part 27, the article would be in a substantially horizontal position, or if the part 24 was secured to the part 26 a position inclined at approximately 45° to the vertical, these three positions are illustrated in Figures 3, 4 and 5.

The second part 12 comprises a first loop element 30 and a second loop element 31, the first loop element 30 comprises one part 32 of a two part releasable fastening, a complementary part 33 being provided on the second loop element 31. When the two parts 31 and 32 are secured together, as shown in Figure 1 for example, the second loop element 31 has an outer end part 34 that extends in a direction away from the first loop element 30. Said outer end part 34 is attached to second loop element 31 by means of a shaped plate-like member 60, of an inflexible material, for example metal. Said plate like member is rigid so as to maintain the orientation of outer end part 34 in a direction extending away from first loop element 30.

Said plate like member is attached to second loop element 31 by incorporation within the outer portion of second part 33 of said releasable fastening, and attached to outer end part 34 by means of a rivet-like member 36.

Secured to that outer end part 34 by rivet-like member 36 is a securing strip 37, which may also be made from leather, having an outer end provided with one part 38 of a second two-part releasable fastening. The complementary part 39 of the second two-part releasable fastening is secured to the first loop element 30.

The securing means in the form of the securing strip 37 makes accidental release of the holding means almost impossible since the two-part releasable fastening 32 and 33 cannot be released until the second two part releasable fastening 38 and 39 is released.

Whilst the securing strip 37 prevents accidental release of the holding means, it is still very simple and fast for the person wearing the holding means

to intentionally release the handcuffs 19 from the holding means. In order to intentionally release the handcuffs 19 the releasable fastening 38 and 39 on the securing means is first released by, for example, engaging a finger under the end part of strip 37 and pulling the press-stud like fastening 38 and 39 apart, the two-part releasable fastening 32 and 33 may then very simply be released by contact, by the heel of the thumb for example, on upstanding end part 34 provided on the second loop part 31.

Once the securing means and releasable fastening 38 and 39 is released, a reasonably sharp contact on the upstanding part 34 will cause the releasable fastening 32 and 33 to be quickly released thus enabling the user to remove the article 19 from the holding means in a rapid manner.

It will be appreciated that the security provided by the holding means in the form of the securing strip 37 with its own second two-part releasable fastening may be provided on alternative embodiments of holding means that do not need to include the alternative position fastening between the first part and the second part.

Referring now to Figure 6. The holding means may be modified to include a further securing means generally indicated at 40, wherein second part 12 is altered in that tab 23 of the embodiment shown in Figure 1 is enlarged so as to form the further securing means 40, said enlarged tab henceforth being referred to as tab 41.

Tab 41 is provided with one part 24 of a press-stud type two part releasable fastening, as aforescribed.

Further securing means 40 comprises tab 41, formed from a material, for example leather, and a substantially semi-circular segment 42 formed from a similar material, both of which are partially joined together, for example by stitching shown at 15, leaving an aperture 43.

The depth of further securing means 40 and the aperture of said securing means should be sufficient to accommodate a further portion of the held article, for example a bracelet 44 of the handcuffs 19.

Referring now to Figure 7 and 8, another embodiment is shown suitable for holding a side handled baton.

A side handled baton shown and indicated at 50 is shown in dotted outline and comprises an upper handle part 51, a lower part 52 and a side handle part 53. The holding means comprises a first part 54 and a second part shown and indicated at 55.

The second part 55 is mounted for at least limited rotational movement relative to the first part 54 and can be secured in three different positions in a manner similar to that already described.

The second part of the holding means comprises a first closed loop 56 through which the elongate part of the baton can extend and a second loop 57 which can be closed, as shown in Figure 8, open as shown in Figure 7 so as to release the baton 50. The second loop 57 which closes around the side handle 53 has a double securement means generally indicated at 58 which is the same as that described in respect of the other two embodiments of holding means.

The securement means 58 ensures that the baton cannot be accidentally knocked out of its holding means, but the user of the baton is still able to rapidly release the securement means 58 and hence draw the baton out of the holding means.

The features disclosed in the foregoing description, or the accompanying drawings, expressed in their specific forms or in the terms or means for performing the desired function, or a method or process for attaining the disclosed result, may, separately or in any combination of such features, be utilised for realising the invention in diverse forms thereof.

CLAIMS

1. Holding means adapted for holding an article, said holding means comprising a first part having attachment means for attachment to a person or an article of personal attire and a second part adapted for holding said article, said second part comprising an open loop comprising first and second loop elements each of which is provided with one part of a two part releasable fastening engageable to close said loop, one of said loop elements having secured thereto a securing member, said securing member being provided with one part of a second two part fastening, the other part of which is provided on the other of said loop elements.
2. Holding means according to Claim 1, wherein one of said loop elements is provided with an outer end part which extends in a direction away from said other loop element when the first releasable fastening means is in its secured position.
3. Holding means according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein said releasable fastening means are of a "press-stud" type.
4. Holding means according to any of the preceding claims wherein said attachment means provided on the first part for attachment to an item of personal attire comprises loops through which a belt may extend.
5. Holding means according to any of the preceding claims comprising the addition of a further part adapted to provide further securing means for said article.
6. Holding means according to Claim 5 wherein said further part comprises a pouch having an opening.

7. Holding means according to Claim 6, wherein the opening of said pouch extends in a direction substantially parallel with said open loop comprising said first and second loop elements.
8. Holding means according to Claim 6 or Claim 7 wherein said pouch accommodates a part of said handcuffs bracelets.
9. Holding means according to any of Claims 1 to 5, comprising a closed third loop on said second part substantially perpendicular to said first and second loops.
10. Holding means according to Claim 9, wherein said third loop accommodates a portion of a side handled baton.
11. Holding means according to any one of the preceding claims wherein the relative position of said held article relative to the user is able to be altered by relative movement of said first and second parts.
12. Holding means according to Claim 11, wherein said relative movement is rotational movement.
13. Holding means according to Claim 11 or Claim 12, further comprising means for holding said first and second parts in a selected one of a plurality of angular positions relative to each other.
14. Holding means according to Claim 13, wherein said means for holding said first and second parts comprises releasable fastening means, one provided on said second part and at least two complementary parts provided on said first part to provide said plurality of different fixed positions.
15. Holding means as claimed in Claim 14 wherein said releasable fastening means comprise press-stud type fasteners.

16. Holding means substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 1 to 5 of the accompanying drawings.

17. Holding means substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in Figure 6 of the accompanying drawings.

18. Holding means substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 7 and 8 of the accompanying drawings.

19. Holding means including any novel feature or novel combination of features as disclosed herein and/or as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

Relevant Technical Fields

- (i) UK Cl (Ed.N) E2A (AARB); E2X; F3C (CPV)
(ii) Int Cl (Ed.6) F41B 13/04, 15/02; F41C 33/02; E05B 73/00, 75/00

Databases (see below)

(i) UK Patent Office collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications.

(ii) ONLINE: WPI

Search Examiner
MIKE McKINNEY

Date of completion of Search
10 JANUARY 1995

Documents considered relevant following a search in respect of Claims :-
1 TO 18

Categories of documents

- X: Document indicating lack of novelty or of inventive step. P: Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of the present application.
Y: Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of the same category. E: Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of the present application.
A: Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art. &: Member of the same patent family; corresponding document.

Category	Identity of document and relevant passages	Relevant to claim(s)
A	GB 2256264 A (ASHIHARA)	
Y	EP 0312521 A1 (CAMMAERTS) see Figure 5	1, 3, 4, 9-12
Y	US 5263619 (SHOEMAKER) see figures	1, 3, 4, 9-12
* X	US 4006851 (KIPPEN) see Figures 1-4 and lines 6 to 66 column 3	1, 3 and 4
Note *	Amendments to original search	

Databases: The UK Patent Office database comprises classified collections of GB, EP, WO and US patent specifications as outlined periodically in the Official Journal (Patents). The on-line databases considered for search are also listed periodically in the Official Journal (Patents).